

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, and 52 to read as follows (a marked-up version of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached).

45. (Twice Amended) A light conductive member comprising a light entrance face in a part of a lateral face other than an end in the longitudinal direction of a rod-shaped translucent member; an inclined lateral face relative to said light entrance face in a part of the lateral face opposed to said light entrance face, adapted to reflect and/or diffuse an entering light beam into the longitudinal direction of said rod-shaped translucent member; and a light exit face in at least a part of the lateral face, adapted to emit at least a part of said reflected and/or diffused light beam.

46. (Twice Amended) A light conductive member according to claim 45, further comprising a reflecting and/or diffusing area, on a side opposed to said exit face, adapted to further reflect and/or diffuse the light beam reflected and/or diffused by the inclined lateral face.

48. (Amended) An illuminating device comprising a light conductive member according to claim 45, 46 or 47 and a light source adapted to irradiate the light entrance face of said light conductive member with light.

49. (Amended) An illuminating device according to claim 48, wherein said light source comprises an LED.

50. (Amended) An illuminating device according to claim 48, wherein said light source includes a plurality of light-emitting elements, each light emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.

52. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 51, further comprising a drive unit, said drive unit being adapted to shift a positional relationship between the original and the photoelectric converting device.

Please add Claims 53-58 to read as follows:

53. (New) An image reading apparatus comprising: an illuminating device adapted to illuminate an original and a photoelectric converting device adapted to effect photoelectric conversion on the light from the original, said illuminating device including a light entrance face in a part of a lateral face of a rod-shaped translucent member; an inclined lateral face relative to said light entrance face in a part of the lateral face opposed to said light entrance face, adapted to reflect and/or diffuse an entering light beam into the longitudinal direction of said rod-shaped translucent member; a light exit face in at least a part of the lateral face, adapted to emit at least a part of said reflected and/or diffused light beam; and a light source adapted to irradiate the light entrance face.

54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said illuminating device further comprises a reflecting and/or diffusing area, on a side opposed to said exit face, adapted to further reflect and/or diffuse the light beam reflected and/or diffused by the inclined lateral face.

55. (New) An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said light source comprises an LED.

56. (New) An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said light source includes a plurality of light-emitting elements, each light-emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.

57. (New) An apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said light source comprises LEDs.

58. (New) An apparatus according to claim 53, further comprising a drive unit, said drive unit being adapted to shift a positional relationship between the original and the photoelectric converting device.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 3, 2001. Claims 45-58 are pending in this application. Claims 53-58 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 45, 46, 48-50, and 52 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms that distinguish over the art of record. Claims 45 and 53 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for not showing the plurality of light sources recited in Claim 50 and described in the specification. Applicant notes that plural light sources are shown in Figure 7, at reference